

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06985 070851Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 NAS-01 ICA-20 L-03 /044 W
-----034364 080609Z /23

R 070844Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0111

UNCLAS MOSCOW 06985

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: INTER-ACADEMY AGREEMENT: EXCHANGEES HOUSING (21.00)

REF: (A) STATE 86602, (B) MOSCOW 5496

1. NAS EXCHANGEES SILBAR ADVISED EMBASSY THAT ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HAD REVERSED ITS PREVIOUS POSITION AND PROVIDED HE AND HIS WIFE WITH AN APARTMENT. WE APPRECIATE NAS'S PROMPT DISPATCH OF A SUPPORTING TELEX.

2. COMMENT. WITH RESPECT TO NAS COMMENTS ON SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HOUSING POLICY PER PARA 4, REF A, WE PERCEIVE NO MAJOR CHANGE AND ATTACH NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THOSE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY, NOTABLY THAT OF SILBAR BUT ALSO THOSE ENCOUNTERED BY HEMMES AND KOBLITZ AT THE OUTSET OF THEIR VISITS, SEEM TO HAVE THEIR SOURCES IN THE ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE CLUMSINESS OF THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY. IN EACH CASE, THE PROBLEM WAS PUT RIGHT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. AND, OF COURSE, SOME EXCHANGEES, BORGAOMKAR AND GREER, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED HOUSING PROBLEMS, MOVING RIGHT INTO ACADEMY APARTMENTS ON THEIR ARRIVAL HERE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULAR COMPLAINTS ABOUT
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INADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE ABOUT THE HOUSING SITUATION HERE, BOTH HEMMES AND SILBAR (OF THE RECENT NAS ARRIVALS) TOLD US THAT NAS HAD NOT INFORMED THEM OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE HOUSING SITUATION AWAITING THEM HERE, I.E., THAT THEY WOULD BE LODGED IN HOTELS FOR THE MOSCOW PORTION OF THEIR VISITS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED, EITHER BY NAS OR, IN SILBAR'S CASE, BY THE SOVIETS, THAT THEY WOULD BE

PROVIDED APARTMENTS. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE, AND WE
CITE THE RICHARD DAVIS CASE AS A PRIME EXAMPLE, THAT
NAS EXCHANGEES OFTEN ARRIVE HERE UNAWARE THAT THE QUESTION
OF THEIR HOUSING HAS NOT IN FACT BEEN RESOLVED BETWEEN
THE TWO ACADEMIES. IT ONLY ADDS TO THE PROBLEMS
OF ALL CONCERNED TO SEND US EXCHANGEES HERE WITHOUT SOVIET
CONFIRMATION THAT ADEQUATE (AND REQUESTED) HOUSING WILL
BE PROVIDED. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, HOUSING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW06985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0103
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780481/aaaacqf.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 469ad4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 86602, 78 MOSCOW 5496
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3042214
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTER-ACADEMY AGREEMENT: EXCHANGE HOUSING (21.00)
TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/469ad4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014